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Weekly Special Report



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INSIDE

U.S. Planes Carry Emergency Supplies to Ethiopian Flood Victims

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff
Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Air Force has helped transport more than 80 metric tons of food and emergency relief supplies to flood victims in the ethnic Somali region of southeastern Ethiopia, U.S. government officials said November 13.

Working with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and

the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport airplane carried more than 40 metric tons



Ethiopians unload aid supplies in Gode, Ethiopia, following a U.S. Air Force humanitarian delivery mission. (U.S. Navy photo)

of relief supplies to the city of Gode, Ethiopia, beginning November 10, according to an announcement from the U.S. Central Command. The supplies came from sites in Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa run by Ethiopia's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency.

Over the next several days, U.S. aircraft helped transport a total of 46 metric tons of food and 36 metric tons of non-

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PEPFAR Ethiopia funds state-of-the-art renovation of Ethiopia's National HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory

Addis Ababa (CDC-Ethiopia) -- Dr. Deborah L. Birx, Director of the Global AIDS Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, presided over a ceremony to mark the completion of a state-of-

the art renovation of Ethiopia's National HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory at the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI).

The state-of-the art laboratory was renovated, furnished, and equipped with various laboratory equipments at a cost of 28,909,969 million Birr

through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The 3-storey National HIV/AIDS Reference Laboratory is the national center of excellence in support of HIV/AIDS diagnosis, treatment, training, and research. It is the lead facility in a na-

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Seasoned Africanist Becomes First U.S. Envoy to African Union

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Ambassador Cindy Courville is capping more than 20 years of involvement with African issues with a challenging assignment as the first U.S. envoy to the African Union (AU), headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

More than 200 diplomats, friends and family members joined Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who presided at the November 8 swearing-in for Courville at the State Department. National Security Council (NSC) Advisor Stephen Hadley also attended.

Courville's brother, Ronald, and husband, Edward, stood beside her as the new ambassador pledged to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States," the oath that all U.S. government officials take before assuming public office.

Courville was President Bush's top Africa adviser on the NSC before being named to the new diplomatic posting. Before that, she taught political science at several universities and served for a number of years as an Africa analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Rice, who attended the University of Denver with Courville, called the new ambassador "the ideal candidate" to represent America to the increasingly important AU, lately called upon to furnish peacekeeping troops to crisis areas such as Darfur in Sudan.

Courville's knowledge and understanding of conflict issues, as well

as the continent's development needs, are a good match for the ongoing spirit of "partnership" and cooperation that characterizes U.S.-African relations, Rice said. And since "the AU has been one of

continue to be part of the American-African dream to build upon that partnership and build upon the promise of freedom and prosperity that President Bush sees on the continent."



Newly appointed U.S. envoy to the African Union, Cindy Courville (left), accepts her appointment as her family and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice watch, Wednesday, November 8, at the State Department in Washington. (Janine Sides/State Dept.)

our very important partners...", she said, "the evolution of that relationship takes a natural turn today with the appointment" of Courville.

"The United States has worked effectively with the African Union ... to bring Africans together" to work on critical issues such as "the terrible tragedy in Darfur," Rice said. And Courville will be a key participant, she added, "as we continue to work together to build strong strategic relationships throughout the continent."

Courville said, "It is the African ambassadors, that corps, who supported me also, and I hope will

To the AU representatives, she said: "I look forward to being on the continent. I look forward to the challenges -- and I know they are going to be tough. But I know there is a vision" for the future and that "you will allow the United States to participate in that partnership ... and I know there will be nothing less than success."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Donor Countries Join Forces To Support African Agriculture

By Wendy Lubetkin
Washington File Special Correspondent

Geneva -- Representatives of development agencies from major donor countries will meet in Geneva November 15-16 to look at ways of coordinating their support for the African Union's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

"This is part of a concerted international effort to meet one of the largest challenges that faces the

CAADP is an initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a framework for sustainable development drafted by African leaders. Launched by the African Union (AU) in July 2001, NEPAD aims to "establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations," Hill said.

"This is an African vision of African development," he said. "Donors are meeting to determine

poverty and hunger in Africa," said Hill. "But it is also clear that you cannot fix the other problems if you do not fix agriculture."

The United States is the largest bilateral donor to sub-Saharan Africa and is currently spending around \$350 million a year in support of agriculture, he said. The Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa has allocated \$200 million a year over a five-year period to support the CAADP framework.

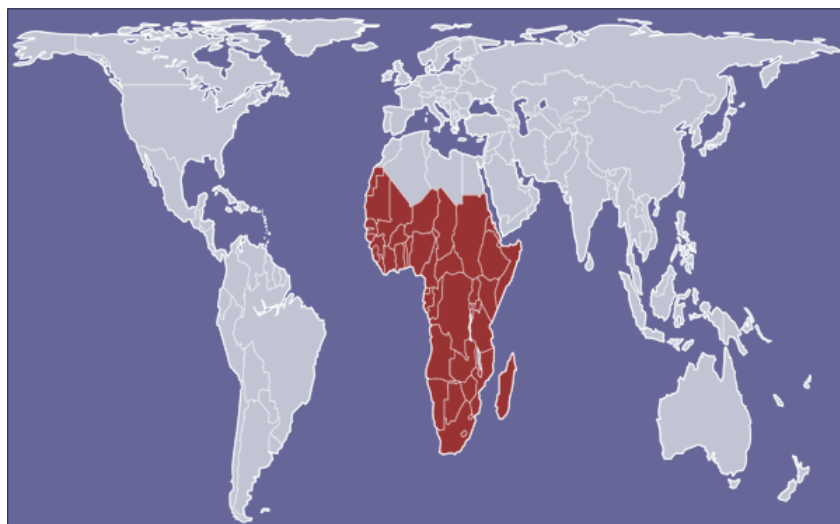
The CAADP focuses on four key areas: land and water, agricultural trade and related infrastructure, relief assistance and chronic vulnerability, and science and technology.

In the trade area, Hill cited the success of USAID's Regional Agriculture Trade Expansion Support (RATES) program, which aims to increase agricultural trade within East and Southern Africa and between those regions and the rest of the world. Trade of selected commodities has increased 350 percent in East Africa since the program was introduced three years ago, he said.

"We've seen the empirical evidence. Building trade capacity has directly increased agricultural activity in a number of dominant commodities important to the continent, and it is directly increasing incomes of households in nine countries," Hill said.

The November 15-16 CAADP donor's consultation aims to strengthen the collaboration among donor countries and to set regional priorities for action. Par-

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Regional map - Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

world today: African poverty and hunger," said Jeffrey Hill in a recent interview. Hill is the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) director of the Presidential Initiative to End Hunger.

"If current trends continue, by 2011, 50 percent of the entire population on the planet that are hungry will reside in Africa. That is absolutely unacceptable," Hill said.

how we can best work together within the NEPAD/CAADP framework to assist African countries in meeting their goals."

CAADP has set a target of increasing agricultural growth rates to 6 percent per year to create the wealth needed for rural communities and households in Africa to prosper.

"We know that agriculture cannot by itself solve the problems of

Partnership Rescues Children from Slave Labor in Ghana

Mark, a small boy younger than 10 years old, does not understand why he now lives in a fishing village on Lake Volta, days away from his home. He is up before dawn, doing the work adult fishermen do, hauling nets and bailing water from the bottom of a canoe.

He works up to 14 hours a day, often in dangerous conditions, with little food to eat. If he slows down, he might be beaten. He does not go to school. Some of the children get caught in the nets in extremely cold water.

Mark and many of his young co-workers are child slaves, rented out to fishing business owners by their families for up to four years for a small amount.

When a dam built on Ghana's Volta River slowed the vigorous flow of water, it destroyed the income potential of nearby fishing communities. Families -- especially those downstream -- were either forced to migrate upstream or send their children to stay with relatives and send proceeds from their work home. In this impoverished environment, fishermen and traffickers took advantage of the situation and recruited children for paltry sums of money to work in dangerous conditions, with false promises of skills training and education. Children remain trapped in these conditions.

"Get dressed quick, quick and go."

These were the last words another boy, Kwodjo, heard from his father, who sent him to work in the Yeji fishing area with the fisherman who keeps him as a slave. Like other children in his situation, he is afraid to return home and

defy his parents' wishes. But he openly expresses his desire not just to return home, but also to attend school.

Kwodjo's hands are cut from untangling fishing nets and he is unable to smile. He is only allowed to sleep a few hours each night and is always hungry. But Kwodjo is one of the lucky ones -- he did not get caught in the nets and drown, his body washing up on the lake's shores.

Since the early 2000s, a local nongovernmental organization, the Association of People for Practical Life Education (APPLE), in partnership with the Washington-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) Free the Slaves, has been using community outreach and education to end child slavery in fishing villages along Ghana's Lake Volta.

The partnership is supported by the U.S. State Department.

Through its relationships with village chiefs, local government officials, NGO representatives and other community leaders, APPLE is able to obtain and disseminate crucial knowledge about the child slavery issue in communities that are either the source or destination of child slaves.

APPLE also motivates local police to take action against those who continue to exploit children for labor. Soon APPLE will be able to call upon Ghana's first law against trafficking and slavery to strengthen its rescue efforts.

After the children are rescued, they are first taken to APPLE's short-term shelter for immediate

medical care, food and shelter. Then after a few days, they are taken to the Department of Social Welfare shelter near the capital city Accra, where Free the Slaves has funded a program so children spend a few weeks recovering, begin basic education and get medical treatment, counseling and recreation. Eventually, as their par-



Child labor in Africa
(file photo)

ents are located, they are taken home and reintegrated into formal schools. A pilot group of families now is also receiving skills training and microcredit support to address the families' vulnerability to being enslaved.

More Information (<http://www.freetheslaves.net/>) about Free the Slaves is available on the organization's Web site.

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food items such as water containers, blankets, water-purification tablets and cooking pots, the Voice of America news service reported November 14.

Additional flights are planned, U.S. officials said.

"To help supply thousands of people with basic necessities of survival -- this is mission accomplishment," U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Tim Moon, deputy commander of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), said November 10. The task force operates out of Djibouti to help mitigate hardship conditions that could foster terrorism.

Flash flooding in the past two weeks caused the Shabele River to

burst its banks in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, near the border with Somalia. The region was also hard hit by heavy rains in August.

"Gode zone is completely cut off by road to the outside world because of flooding," IRC Country Director David Murphy said November 10. "We hear reports that there are trucks loaded with emergency relief [supplies] stranded in the surrounding area but unable to get through. We're just lucky that we can airlift our emergency relief via the U.S. military."

Throughout Ethiopia, flooding has killed more than 630 people and taken a heavy toll on livestock and agriculture, the U.S. Department of Defense said.

USAID announced November 9 that it will provide \$37 million in

emergency food assistance to support World Food Programme operations in Ethiopia. The agency said the donation is expected to help feed approximately 3 million people through December.

A news release (<http://www.defenselink.mil/News/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=2111>) about the emergency flights is posted on the Defense Department Web site.

A news release (http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2006/pr061109_1.html) about the \$37 million in food assistance is posted on the USAID Web site.

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Donor Countries Join Forces To Support African . . .

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ticipants will work toward identifying five to eight priority countries in Africa, and determining which donor agencies will take the lead coordinating role in each of those countries.

"We also hope to establish multi-donor efforts in hunger hot-spots," Hill said. "It is essential that there is coherence among donors if we are going to effectively tackle the most critical issues."

The meeting is co-sponsored by USAID and the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development (GDPRD), a joint donor initiative

chaired by Germany and managed by GTZ, the German agency for technical cooperation. It will be hosted by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, with participants from major donors, including Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Sweden, Norway, the European Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

"Partnerships are the foundation of the USAID approach in virtually everything we do," Hill said.

"Success in Africa will depend on the strength of the partnerships we build among donor countries, among African countries and between the private and public sec-

tor. These partnerships are also key elements in the CAADP framework for agricultural development."

For more information, see U.S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html). More information also is available in a fact sheet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050607-3.html>) on the White House Web site.

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United States Concerned About Increasing Violence in Chad

By David McKeeby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States is watching closely recent attacks on civilians by ethnic Arab militias in Chad's provinces bordering Sudan's western region of Darfur, says State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

"We are concerned about the violence between various groups in Chad as well as in Darfur," McCormack told journalists at a November 13 press briefing.



Two refugee girls leave a refugee camp to fetch water in Darfur, Sudan, Saturday, October 14. More than 2 million people in Darfur have been displaced and over 400,000 killed as a result of violence spurred by the Sudanese government-backed

More than 200 Chadians have been killed since November 4 in a dramatic upsurge in ethnic violence. United Nations officials have received reports that the jinjaweit -- the Sudanese government-backed militia responsible for the violence that has killed more than 400,000 and displaced 2 million people in Darfur -- may be

linked to the attacks.

"We are deeply alarmed at the brutality in eastern Chad, which is already struggling to cope with more than 218,000 Sudanese refugees from neighboring Darfur," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) António Guterres in a November 9 statement.

The attacks appear to be "a spillover" from the ongoing Darfur crisis, agreed McCormack. "You see similar kinds of conflicts, similar kinds of lines being drawn," between ethnic Arab Muslim and local African communities, he said.

"At least 20 villages have been attacked, burned down or destroyed," Hélène Caux from the U.N. refugee agency, told Voice of America in a November 13 interview from Chad. Thousands more have left the area in anticipation of future attacks, she added.

In response, Chad's government declared a state of emergency November 13 in the regions of Ouaddai, Wadi Fira and Salamat. As a precautionary measure, the government also extended the state of emergency to surrounding regions as well as Chad's capital, N'Djamena.

The violence in Chad's border region further underlines the need

for a strengthened international peacekeeping force in Darfur, McCormack said; a goal the United States continues to pursue actively. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?w=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061031154453esnamfuak0.1723444>).

"A big part of ensuring the stability not only in Darfur but in adjoining areas as well is to see that this international force gets into Sudan. And we are talking to friends and allies about that, talking to a number of Arab states about how to make that happen," McCormack said.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2006/75929.htm>) of McCormack's briefing is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>) and Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

Bush Says Elections Show America's Strength

Washington -- President Bush said the American people's freedom to choose their leaders is the source of the nation's strength, and he warned America's enemies not to confuse the changes in Washington with a lack of American will.

Speaking in his weekly radio address on Saturday, November 11, after the midterm election that gave the Democrats a majority in both houses of Congress, Bush reiterated his willingness to work with the Democratic leaders. "Whatever your opinion of the outcome, all Americans can take pride in the example our democracy sets for the world by holding elections even in a time of war," Bush said.

He added that the threats posed by international terrorists remain the same. "America faces brutal enemies who have attacked us before and want to attack us again," said the president. Calling Iraq "the central front in this war on terror," he said he is looking forward to listening to the ideas from the new Democratic leaders of Congress "on the best way to support our troops on the front lines -- and win the war on terror." Bush also said he is looking forward to hearing recommendations from the bipartisan Iraq Study Group led by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton.

Bush expressed his gratitude for the service of the outgoing Secretary

of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, whom he wants to replace with former CIA director Robert Gates. "History will record that on Secretary Rumsfeld's watch, the men and women of our military overthrew two terrorist regimes, brought justice to scores of senior



President George W. Bush

al Qaeda operatives, and helped stop new terrorist attacks on our people," the president said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=November&x=20061108165403M>).

Earlier this week President Bush met with the top two Democrats in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California and Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland and with the top Democrats in the Senate, Senators Harry Reid of Nevada and Dick Durbin of Illinois to discuss the agenda of the outgoing Congress and relations between the executive and the legislative

branches of the government. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=November&x=20061109170339esnamfuak0.8969843>).)

In his Saturday radio address he said the American people "want their leaders in Washington to set aside partisan differences, conduct ourselves in an ethical manner, and work together to address the challenges facing the nation."

For additional information on the U.S. elections and their aftermath, see 2006 Midterm Elections (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections.html>).

An audio link (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/11/20061111.a.ram>) to the address is available at the White House Web site.

(begin transcript)

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, November 11, 2006

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This weekend we commemorate Veterans Day, a day when America honors every man and woman who has worn the uniform of our military. In Veterans Day celebra-

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First Muslim Elected to the U.S. Congress

By Lea Terhune
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Democrat Keith Ellison won a closely watched Minnesota congressional race November 7, making him the first Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Ellison also is the first black congressman elected from Minnesota. He will fill the seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Representative Martin Sabo.

"I think the most important thing about this race is we tried to pull people together on things we all share, things that are important to everyone," he said in his victory speech. "We were able to bring in Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists."

Ellison, a two-term state legislator before his run for Congress, has opposed the war in Iraq, and has advocated universal health care for Americans.

Even though he is an observant Muslim, Ellison has not made religion a feature of his campaign. "People draw strength and moral courage from a variety of religious traditions. Mine have come from both Catholicism and Islam. I was raised Catholic and later became a Muslim while attending Wayne State University. I am inspired by the Quran's message of an encompassing divine love, and a deep faith guides my life everyday," he wrote in an article for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

"I think it's time for the United States to see a moderate Muslim voice, to see a face of Islam that is just like everybody else's face," he said recently.

Born in Detroit, Ellison received his law degree at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, where he practices law and where he has lived for the past 17 years. He converted to Islam at the age of 19, saying that as a young man he was outraged by racism and injustice.

Ellison described himself at that age as an angry young social activist, but "I eventually realized that it is easy to be a critic pointing out problems and failings, but it is a far more difficult thing to be part of creating the solution." He credits his family for steering him onto the right path.

"I began to help create a world where everybody counts and where there are no throwaway people," he said.

He has a reputation as a bridge-builder, reaching across partisan divides to achieve results. He champions liberal causes, supports raising the minimum wage, environmental protection, abortion rights and increased funding for education.

"Ellison's election is a good sign for America," University of Minnesota professor and analyst Lawrence Jacobs told the Washington File. "Muslims who may have been feeling persecuted or locked out of American society will feel a more hopeful side of American society."

He said it is encouraging for Muslims abroad, also, because it signals willingness to entertain other views. "American diversity works

to our advantage with Muslims in positions of political power," he said.

Although the Midwest often is seen as a conservative bastion, Jacobs said, "Openness is a historical legacy and tradition in the Midwest." Important civil rights leaders emerged from Minnesota, he added. "Everyone gets a



Keith Ellison won the Minnesota congressional race Nov. 7, making him the first Muslim to serve in the U.S. Congress. (AP Image)

chance on their own record, without regard to race and creed," he said. "It is a tolerant society."

American Muslims welcomed Ellison's victory. Corey Saylor, director of the Council on Islamic Relations, said in a November 8 statement, "The election of an American Muslim candidate to national office and the rejection of those who promoted societal division and mistrust send a clear message that the United States is a nation that embraces people of all faiths."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Bush, Congressional Leaders Discuss Agenda of Outgoing Congress

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- Despite losing majority representation in the next session of Congress, which convenes in January 2007, President Bush and the Republican leadership retain partisan advantage in the current Congress and have a number of legislative items they will seek to pass in the "lame-duck" session that begins November 13.

Bush met November 9 with the top two Democrats in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California and Congressman Steny Hoyer of Maryland. On November 10, he plans to meet with Senators Harry Reid of Nevada and Dick Durbin of Illinois, the top Democrats in the Senate.

"It is our responsibility to put the elections behind us and work together on the great issues facing America," Bush said ahead of his meeting with Pelosi and Hoyer.

Following their meeting, Pelosi acknowledged policy differences with the president, but said she and her party will debate the issues "in a way that gets results for the American people."

"We've made history," she said, "now we have to make progress."

A lame-duck session of Congress refers to the portion of the session that is held between the November election and the adjournment of

Congress. (The next Congress begins its first session in January 2007.) Some members of the current Congress, the 109th, will not be returning for the 110th Congress. The term "lame duck" for elected official who are still serving but have failed in their bids for re-election dates to 18th century Britain.

The president said there are issues that need to be addressed in the

of the Outer Continental Shelf to oil drilling, and authorization of the administration's terrorist surveillance program.

"[T]hat means the next few weeks are going to be busy ones," he said.

FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

Bush said the lame-duck Congress also has important foreign policy items on its agenda, such as ena-



President George W. Bush meets with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) in the Oval Office Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006. "First, I want to congratulate Congresswoman Pelosi for becoming the Speaker of the House, and the first woman Speaker of the House. This is historic for our country," President Bush said. He also stated, "This is the beginning of a series of meetings we'll have over the next couple of years, all aimed at solving problems and leading the country." White House photo by Eric Draper

final days of the 109th Congress, including the passage of the remaining federal spending bills (only those for the Defense and Homeland Security departments have been passed), energy legislation that would open some new areas

bling the United States to cooperate with India on civilian nuclear technology and authorizing normal trade relations with Vietnam, a step that would enable the United States to recognize that country as

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Presidents, Celebrities Inaugurate Martin Luther King Memorial

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Opera and gospel music stars sang, President Bush and former President Clinton and four children gave speeches, poets read their lines and 75 people put shovels into the ground to inaugurate a memorial to civil rights hero Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington's front yard -- the National Mall -- on November 13.

President Bush said he was proud to dedicate the memorial in its "rightful place" -- between monuments to Thomas Jefferson, who "declared the promise of America," and Abraham Lincoln, "who defended the promise of America." King, Bush said, "redeemed the promise of America."

The new memorial, the first on the National Mall to honor an African American, is scheduled to be completed in 2008 at the west end of the Tidal Basin that fronts the Jefferson Memorial.

In the summer of 1963, King delivered his famous I Have a Dream speech from the nearby steps of the Lincoln Memorial to more than 200,000 civil rights marchers gathered on the mall. That speech is considered by many to be one of the greatest speeches in American history. King's daughter Yolanda recalled her father's voice as "velvet," but also commanding, as it called on America to make good its promises of freedom and justice for all citizens.

The memorial will feature King's words, inscribed behind falling water and near a "stone of hope" reminiscent of a phrase in his speech in which King said his dream and his faith would allow

the marchers to go back to the South and "hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope." At the time of that and other civil rights marches, African Americans were segregated from whites in schools, shopping places, restaurants and on buses. Their attempts to register to vote in the South often were met with violence. King began a long campaign of nonviolent resistance to rectify these wrongs. In his "dream" speech, he said his people would not be satisfied "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Less than one year from that date, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, ending segregation practices.

After a cold and rainy morning November 13, the downpour stopped and 5,000 people -- many women in high heels and fancy hats and men in their best suits and ties -- walked determinedly through mud puddles to witness the groundbreaking. Those civil rights activists who had been close to King and still are alive and able to travel were on hand -- Andrew Young, America's first African-American ambassador to the United Nations; Congressman John Lewis, founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the civil rights era; Dorothy Height, president emeritus of the National Council of Negro Women;

and Jesse Jackson, a prominent political leader and former presidential candidate.

Television celebrity Oprah Winfrey came fashionably late but stopped to tell reporters, "I am who I am because of the struggles of Dr. King. My life is what it is because of his work." She said she remembers King's courage "with every



President George W. Bush greets Martin Luther King III and his sisters, Yolanda Denise King and Bernice Albertine King, Monday, Nov. 13, 2006, following President Bush's speech at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. White House photo by Eric Draper

breath" and plans to come back to visit the memorial when it is completed as well as a museum of African-American history that is also in the planning stages.

According to Young, Americans celebrate the words of King "not because he spoke them, but because he lived them." Young reminded the crowd that while King was engaging in a nonviolent struggle to secure rights for African Americans, his home was bombed, he was indicted for tax evasion, stabbed, and jailed for having an expired driver's license (at which

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Bush Says Elections Show America's . . .

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tions across our Nation, we remember those who have served in previous wars, those who are serving today, and those who did not live to become veterans. Especially in a time of war, we see in our veterans an example of people who stepped forward to serve a cause larger than themselves. This weekend, I ask you to take a moment to thank our veterans for their service, and express your appreciation for the sacrifices they have made to preserve our freedom and way of life.

One freedom that defines our way of life is the freedom to choose our leaders at the ballot box. We saw that freedom earlier this week, when millions of Americans went to the polls to cast their votes for a new Congress. Whatever your opinion of the outcome, all Americans can take pride in the example our democracy sets for the world by holding elections even in a time of war. Our democratic institutions are a source of strength, and our trust in these institutions has made America the most powerful, prosperous, and stable nation in the world.

As a result of this week's elections, the Democrats now hold a majority in both Houses of Congress. After the elections, I called the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate to congratulate them on the victory they achieved for their party. On Thursday, I had lunch with Congresswoman Pelosi and Congress-

man Hoyer, and on Friday I met with Senators Reid and Durbin. We had good discussions. I told them what I have told the men and women in my administration: We must put these elections behind us, and work together on the great issues facing America.

The elections will bring changes to Washington. But one thing has not changed: America faces brutal enemies who have attacked us before and want to attack us again. I have a message for these enemies: Do not confuse the workings of American democracy with a lack of American will. Our Nation is committed to bringing you to justice, and we will prevail.

Iraq is the central front in this war on terror. I look forward to listening to ideas from the new leaders of Congress on the best way to support our troops on the front lines -- and win the war on terror. I also look forward to hearing recommendations on the way forward in Iraq from a bipartisan panel led by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton.

In the meantime, I have made an important change to my national security team. On Wednesday, I accepted Don Rumsfeld's resignation as Secretary of Defense, and announced my intent to nominate Bob Gates to replace him. Bob is a proven leader who has served six Presidents -- four Republicans and two Democrats. As a former CIA Director and the current President of Texas A&M University, he

has experience leading large and complex organizations, and he has shown that he is an agent of change. As Secretary of Defense, he will provide a fresh outlook on our strategy in Iraq, and what we need to do to prevail.

Bob replaces the longest serving member of my Cabinet, Don Rumsfeld. History will record that on Secretary Rumsfeld's watch, the men and women of our military overthrew two terrorist regimes, brought justice to scores of senior al Qaeda operatives, and helped stop new terrorist attacks on our people. America is safer, and the world is more secure because of the leadership of Don Rumsfeld, and I am deeply grateful for his service.

The message of this week's elections is clear: the American people want their leaders in Washington to set aside partisan differences, conduct ourselves in an ethical manner, and work together to address the challenges facing our Nation. This is important work that will demand the hard effort and good faith of leaders from both sides of the aisle, and I pledge to do my part.

Thank you for listening.

(end transcript)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Bush Awards National Arts and Humanities Medals

Washington – Two renowned scholars of Middle Eastern studies in the United States, a translator of Spanish and Portuguese literature and the famous Preservation Hall Jazz Band of New Orleans are among the recipients of the highest honors in the arts and humanities the U.S. government can bestow.

President Bush and first lady Laura Bush presented the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Arts at a White House ceremony November 9. The recipients were honored for their exemplary contributions to art, culture and scholarship.

The honorees include 17 individuals as well as the Interlochen Arts Center in Interlochen, Michigan; the Hoover Institution of Palo Alto, California, a public policy research center; and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which has traveled worldwide spreading its mission to nurture and perpetuate the art form of New Orleans jazz.

Two of the recipients of the National Humanities Medal are Lebanese-born Fouad Ajami and British-born Bernard Lewis, both specialists in Middle Eastern studies.

Ajami is the Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University in Washington. He is considered to be "one of the most politically influential Arab-American intellectuals of his gen-

eration," according to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Ajami came to the United States in 1963 at the age of 17.

Lewis is considered one of the greatest living historians of the Muslim world, according to NEH. He taught Near Eastern and Middle Eastern studies at the University of London and Princeton University, and has continued to write and teach since his retirement from Princeton in 1986. Both Lewis and Ajami are naturalized U.S. citizens.

Another humanities medal recipient is Nickolas Davatzes, the son of

Erich Kunzel, whose parents came to the United States from Germany, has served as conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops orchestras for more than 40 years. Kunzel was unable to accept his medal in person because he is conducting the Shenzhen Philharmonic in Shenzhen, China. In 2005, Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra made history by becoming the first American pops orchestra to perform in China. A pops orchestra specializes in playing popular music and light classical works.

Among other arts medal recipients

are Gregory Rabassa, of New York, the son of a Cuban expatriate sugar broker. Rabassa has translated more than 40 works of Latin American literature from Spanish and Portuguese into English.

Hollywood dancer Cyd Charisse and industrial designer Viktor Schreckengost, who turned 100 this past June, are also honorees.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts, a school of fine arts that educates

more than 2,500 secondary school students drawn from the United States and more than 40 countries, also was recognized.

The center is "dedicated to the promotion of world friendship through the universal language of the arts," according to an inscription in its largest auditorium. Among its programs are the World Youth Symphony, the annual Inter-

(Continued on page 14)



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush stand with recipients of National Endowment of the Arts 2006 Medal of Arts in the Oval Office Thursday, November 9. (White House photo)

Greek immigrants, who is founder of the History Channel -- which is available in 145 countries -- and the Arts and Entertainment Network (A&E) cable channel. He is one of the founders of Cable in the Classroom, the U.S. cable industry's education foundation.

Among the recipients of the National Medal of Arts are the sons of German and Cuban immigrants.

Bush, Congressional Leaders Discuss Agenda of . . .

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a member of the World Trade Organization.

The president will be visiting Vietnam to attend the November 18-19 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said the Bush administration also is seeking Senate approval of the nominations of John Bolton as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and Robert Gates as secretary of defense. Outgoing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to remain in his position until Gates' confirmation. The White House formally sent Bolton's nomination to the Senate on November 9. Currently, Bolton is serving under a temporary "recess" appointment that will expire in January 2007, when the 110th Congress convenes.

Snow said much of the work to be done in completing the legislative agenda and confirming nominees involves getting the necessary paperwork to lawmakers on Capitol Hill before the lame-duck session ends.

"You now have a very short deadline for a lot of the necessities get-

ting up to the Hill. So we're hoping to get it done in the lame duck and we'll do everything we can to accommodate everybody," Snow said.

Senator Reid said the Democrats also believe the civil nuclear agreement with India is important to conclude during the lame-duck session.

"India is the largest democracy in the world," Reid told reporters November 8. "We want to work with them, and [it] is important we move along that line."

Reid also said the Democrats want to schedule legislation addressing bioterrorism, pandemic flu preparedness, offshore oil drilling, tax incentives to encourage alternative energy production, assistance for university tuition, as well as pass the remaining federal spending bills.

In his remarks, Bush also called for cooperation with the new Democrat-controlled Congress on Iraq, saying he is "open to any idea or suggestion that will help us achieve our goals of defeating the terrorists and ensuring that Iraq's democratic government succeeds."

He also said that both parties have a responsibility to ensure that the

149,000 American troops deployed in Iraq "have the resources and support they need to prevail."

The Senate Armed Services committee is scheduled to meet November 15 to hear testimony on U.S. military operations Iraq and Afghanistan from military commanders, intelligence leaders and State Department officials.

The full text (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/11/20061109-1.html>) of the Bolton nomination is available on the White House Web site.

For additional information on the U.S. elections and their aftermath, see 2006 Midterm Elections (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections.html>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

PEPFAR Ethiopia funds state-of-the-art renovation of Ethiopia's . . .

(Continued from page 1)

tional laboratory quality assurance system, and the site of operational research on HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and opportunistic infections. The National HIV/AIDS Reference Labora-

tory also trains Ethiopian public health professionals in the use of existing and new diagnostic and programmatic tools.

Since 2002, PEPFAR has been providing financial and technical assistance to EHNRI to build national,

regional, and facility-based laboratory capacity to support activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and tuberculosis.♦

Bush Repeats Commitment to Guest-Worker Program

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Bush congratulated the Mexican people for an "open and honest" election and reaffirmed that Mexico "is a priority" of his administration in his first meeting with Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderon Hinojosa.

After speaking with Calderon at the White House on November 9, Bush told reporters that the discussions focused on issues of mutual interest such as trade, efforts to fight narcotics trafficking and migration.

"I assured the president-elect that the words I said ... about a comprehensive immigration vision are words I still believe strongly," Bush said, in reference to his desire to have a temporary guest-worker program that would allow some illegal immigrants to the United States to become eligible for citizenship.

The new Mexican leader said he and Bush intend to strengthen bilateral relations, and said Bush

"was very open" to his concerns over migration issues, including the construction of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"We both stressed the need to have a comprehensive vision with



President George W. Bush welcomes President-elect Felipe Calderon of Mexico to the Oval Office Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006. White House photo by Eric Draper

which we can move forward. This is, of course, an extremely important issue," he said, but "it is not the only issue in our bilateral relationship."

Calderon said Mexico wants to expand its trade relationship with the United States, and he and Bush understand that "the only solution to many of the problems

that we have is to create well-paid jobs in Mexico, and for that we need even more investment."

At the State Department, spokesman Sean McCormack said Calderon has "a very broad agenda" for Mexico, including handling immigration, organized crime and trade.

Before meeting with Bush, Calderon had discussions with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on issues including immigration and "how it also relates to the other issues of development and trade and security," which can create "a better horizon" for economic welfare.

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/>

[releases/2006/11/20061109-4.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/11/20061109-4.html)) of the presidents' remarks is available on the White House Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Bush Awards National Arts and Humanities . . .

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lochen Arts Festival, and an annual summer arts camp that attracts students and faculty from around the world.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National En-

dowment for the Humanities were established in 1965 as independent agencies of the federal government. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Nov/18-987209.html>).)

NEA, the largest annual funder of the arts in the United States, has awarded more than 120,000 grants to help support the fine and performing arts since its inception. NEH works to preserve the nation's cultural treasures and make them accessible to the public.

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United States Implementing Intercountry Adoption Standards

By Jane Morse
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States is in the final stages of implementing new, federal-level standards and protections that greatly will benefit thousands of children from around the world in need of permanent families.

The implementation of these standards and the anticipated U.S. ratification of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions was discussed at a November 14 hearing before the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations.

The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption is a formal international agreement designed to ensure transparency in adoptions to prevent trafficking, kidnapping, smuggling and baby-selling. The United States has signed the convention and is moving toward formal ratification in 2007.

The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA) is the implementing mechanism established to carry out the functions required under the convention. The IAA was enacted into law on October 6, 2000. A regulatory framework currently is being put in place to comply with the provisions of both the convention and the IAA to move the United States toward formal ratification.

In her testimony, Catherine Barry, the deputy assistant secretary of state for overseas citizens services, said that November 17 marks the deadline for adoption services to apply for accreditation under the new standards. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=October&x=20061005162126XLrenneFO.4151684>).

This past summer, Barry said, the Department of State signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with

ing closely with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is responsible for approval of the home studies that must be prepared by accredited adoption agencies.

Lori Scialabba, associate director for USCIS's Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, told the hearing that IAA amendments to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act, once they take effect, will broaden the definition of a child who may be adopted. Under the new rules, a child with two living biological parents may be adopted if the parents are incapable of providing proper care to the child and the parents have freely given a written, irrevocable release for that child's emigration and adoption.



the Council on Accreditation (COA) and Colorado's Department of Human Services, designating them as accrediting entities. These two entities will have the power to accredit, temporarily accredit or approve adoption service providers.

The accrediting entities are required to keep the Department of State informed of any problems, such as complaints from adoptive parents, birth parents, adoptees and other involved parties on compliance with the Hague Convention and the IAA, Barry said.

The Department of State is work-

Representative Christopher Smith, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, said the United States adopts more children from abroad than all the other countries combined.

The number of foreign children adopted annually by American citizens, Smith said, has doubled over the last decade from 11,340 to 22,739. The top four "sending" countries over the past five years are China, Russia, Guatemala and South Korea. Only South Korea has not signed the Hague Convention.

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U.S. Students Increasingly Choosing To Learn Foreign Languages

By Elizabeth Kelleher
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- On a recent Monday in a suburb of Washington, 17 teenagers finished their regular school day, practiced sports or participated in other after-school activities and then, at dinnertime, headed back into the classroom for a two-hour course in the Arabic language.

This is the first year the Arlington, Virginia, public school system has offered classes in Arabic and Chinese to students; several evening sessions are filled to capacity.

Americans need to do more work on foreign languages, education experts agree. They compare the United States unfavorably to China, which has a policy of teaching English to students during elementary grades, or to Australia, where one-fourth of students study an Asian language.

Even though the United States might be behind, there are several efforts to teach languages to more students and at younger ages, said Vivian Stuart of the Asia Society in New York.

The United States is beginning to "wake up and realize how important being multilingual will be to our future success," said Marty Abbott, education director for the Virginia-based American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. The Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Organization, which offers an international diploma program popular at U.S. secondary schools, is growing fastest in U.S. elementary schools. Participating schools agree to a

foreign language requirement for each student, said Jeffrey Beard, director of the organization.

This matters because young children learn languages faster than adults do. "You can't take an adult going to the Middle East to fight a war and [teach him languages]," Abbott said. "It has to start early in our schools."



First-graders play a Spanish vocabulary computer game during class in St. Petersburg, Florida. (AP Images)

In addition to more U.S. students studying languages other than English, there is a shift in which languages they are learning. Beard said that of the 60 languages available through his organization, Spanish remains popular in the United States, but Middle Eastern and Asian languages – Japanese, Chinese, Farsi and Arabic – are growing in demand.

The College Board, a New York organization that tests secondary school students in advanced-placement subjects, was "incredulous" at the strong demand for an advanced-placement course in Chinese, said Tom Matts, director of world languages for the board. After 50 years of offering four advanced-placement languages – Spanish, French, German and Latin – the board surveyed schools about other possi-

bilities. Chinese was requested at 10 times the rate of other languages, which Matts attributes to China's growing economic clout.

In spring 2007, the College Board will offer advanced placement tests in Chinese and Japanese.

PRESIDENT PROPOSES NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

President Bush in January announced the National Security Language Initiative, an effort by government agencies to increase the number of Americans learning Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic and languages in the Iranian/Indic/Turkic families. The president requested \$114 million in fiscal year 2007 to pay for this effort. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Jan/06-841144.html>).)

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that studying these languages, "expands young people's opportunities, enriches their lives, and demonstrates our respect for other cultures."

In 2007, the State Department will more than triple the number of students chosen for new Fulbright awards that allow six months study of a language abroad prior to the students participation in a previously established yearlong program. The department also is ramping up the number of teachers it brings from other countries to teach in American schools, from 200 in 2005 to 400 in 2007.

Oregon schools boast a grades K-16 "pipeline" in which Chinese is

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Fulbright Educational Exchange Program Marks 60th Anniversary

By Michael Jay Friedman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- In her statement on International Information Week 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called attention to the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright Program, describing it as the "flagship international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government."

"With a mandate to promote mutual understanding, the Fulbright Program exemplifies the power of international education," she said in the November 3 statement.

The driving force behind the program -- today a family of organized international exchange initiatives -- was J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. As the nation's youngest university president during the time he led the University of Arkansas (1939-1941), Fulbright observed firsthand how young people living, playing and studying together transcend their differences and build strong friendships grounded in mutual understanding.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1942 and the Senate two years later, Fulbright worked to expand his original insight to the international arena. As World War II ended in 1945, he observed that the Treasury was receiving payments from other nations for surplus U.S. property left overseas. He introduced legislation to use those funds for the "promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science." On August 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill

into law, and by 1948 the first American participants were studying overseas.

Subsequent legislation, including most notably the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, expanded and consolidated the program. Today, the Fulbright Program awards about 4,500 grants annually, in some



U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, is shown in 1964. (AP Images)

140 countries. It has awarded grants to more than 250,000 individuals, three-fifths of them non-Americans, and boasts of 35 Nobel Prize-winning alumni -- more than any other academic program -- and 65 winners of the Pulitzer Prize, awarded for achievement in print journalism, literary works and music.

In the year 2001 alone, one Fulbright alumnus (Alejandro Toledo) was elected president of Peru and others were appointed foreign min-

isters in Brazil, Poland and South Korea. That same year, two American Fulbright participants shared the Nobel Prize in economics while others won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction, the National Book Award in fiction and the Grammy (awarded for recorded music) for classical contemporary composition. Scores of other program alumni have contributed to their societies and cultivated global understanding through government service, teaching and scholarship and achievements in the arts and in nearly every walk of life.

DIFFERENT FULBRIGHT PROGRAMS

The "Fulbright Program for U.S. Students" awards grants that afford recent college graduates and master's or doctoral candidates the opportunity to study, perform independent or field research, or gain teaching assistantship experience overseas. They meet, work and share daily life with residents of their host countries.

The "Fulbright for Non-U.S. Students" arranges placement in U.S. academic institutions for more than 1,300 "Foreign Fulbright Fellows" each year. These graduate students and developing professionals and artists interact freely with Americans, contributing to an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity, and intellectual freedom.

Fulbright opportunities do not end at graduation. Each year, some 800 faculty and professionals from around the world receive "Fulbright Scholar Program" grants

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Iran Should Pursue Peaceful Nuclear Path, U.S. Envoy Says

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Iran is pursuing two nuclear paths -- "a uranium path and a plutonium path" -- while the rest of the world wants it to follow a third route by developing peaceful nuclear energy, a senior U.S. diplomat told an audience in the United Arab Emirates November 13.

U.N. inspectors with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria, have found plutonium and traces of highly enriched uranium, news agencies reported November 14, citing a draft report prepared for an IAEA meeting the week of November 20.

At the State Department, spokesman Sean McCormack said November 14 that the IAEA report "underscore[s] the fact that we need a [U.N. Security Council] resolution in order to send a strong message to the Iranians they need to change their behavior."

He added that the Iranian government's plan to achieve "industrial-scale production" of highly enriched uranium by installing tens of thousands of centrifuges in its nuclear program should be "a cold jolt" to the international community.

"They say the production of uranium is for their peaceful nuclear program. Well, excuse us if we base it on past Iranian behavior, [and] we don't buy that," McCormack said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said November 14 that his country expects to com-

plete its nuclear fuel program soon and claimed the international community is ready to accept Iran as a nuclear state.

In reality, the international community is increasingly united in opposing Iran's nuclear program, said Ambassador Gregory L. Schulte, U.S. envoy to the IAEA. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=20061024183320xjatiA0.5942346>).

"Iran's nuclear activities are not consistent with a program that is peaceful, and more and more countries are convinced it is not," Schulte said November 13 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where he addressed the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research.

"More and more countries have come to the same conclusion as my own: that Iran's nuclear program -- with its history of secrecy, its ties to the A.Q. Khan network, its connections to Iran's military -- is actually a cover for developing nuclear weapons," Schulte said.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, the former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, was removed from his position in 2001 amid growing international concern that he had sold nuclear technology to countries such as North Korea. In 2004, Khan confessed he had also sold nuclear weapons technology to Libya and Iran.

"The pursuit of nuclear weapons by the dangerous leaders in Tehran threatens Iran's neighbors and threatens the wider world commu-

nity," Schulte said.

For example, Schulte said, a nuclear-armed Iran could:

Embolden leaders in Tehran to advance their ambitions across the Middle East, either with military forces they build up or with the terrorists they train and equip;

Pose an even greater threat to Middle East peace, including threatening the existence of one state in the region, Israel; and



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
Iranian President

Cause neighboring countries to re-evaluate their commitments to nuclear nonproliferation.

"This could destroy the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a cornerstone of peace and security," Schulte said.

Schulte said 17 countries with nuclear power purchase their fuel on the open market "instead of making the expensive and unnecessary investment in uranium enrichment." These include such technologically advanced countries as Sweden, Finland and South Africa.

"France, Germany and the United Kingdom have offered to back the international market with legally binding assurances of fuel supply,"

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U.S. Students Increasingly Choosing To Learn Foreign . . .

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offered for each year of schooling, and the Defense Department will initiate two additional such programs in 2007, one for Arabic language study.

In October, the Education Department announced \$12.9 million in grants to local education agencies for foreign language teaching. Cynthia Ryan, of the Foreign Language Assistance Program, said such grants will total \$21 million in 2006. The department has requested \$23 million for 2007.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence plans to offer language "summer camps" in 2007 for 400 secondary school students and 400 teachers at sites in five states.

The U.S. business community, long interested in improving students' math and science knowledge, increasingly is focused on language skills. Goldman Sachs Foundation gives prizes to schools doing an excellent job teaching world cultures and languages.

United Parcel Service of America Chief Executive Michael Eskew said the ability to converse in foreign languages is one of the three top qualities he looks for in hiring employees. The Web site for UPS, based in Atlanta, is in 22 languages.

"Foreign language skills are essential to our business and will be even more so in the years ahead," Eskew said.

Young Americans know they need foreign language skills, Abbott said, citing a Roper survey in which ages 18-24 showed the most support of any age group for foreign-language education.

That bodes well for Arlington's Arabic and Chinese classes. "If we sustain enrollment, we want to offer higher levels," said Mary Ann Ullrich, the county's foreign-language supervisor.

At their recent meeting, the teens worked on Arabic handwriting, went over vocabulary, recited numbers and the alphabet, and peppered their professor with

questions – "Does 'sa'eed' mean 'happy' and 'gentleman?'" "How do you pronounce Iraq in Arabic?" "Is Mauritania a big country?"

"They are very enthusiastic," said teacher Ahmed Osman. These students are a little loud, but they are learning quickly.

More information about the Fulbright program (<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright>) and International Education Week (<http://iew.state.gov/>) are on State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

United States Implementing Intercountry Adoption . . .

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Smith, a Republican from New Jersey, affirmed that the Hague Convention makes clear that the eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents are determined by the sending country. The receiving country determines and approves eligibility and suitability

through a home study of the prospective adoptive parents based on a comprehensive review of family and medical history, social environment and reasons for adoption that meet the sending country's requirements, Smith explained. Additional information (http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption_485.html) about international adoption is available on the

State Department Web site. The Web site also offers information on the Hague Convention (http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_462.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Press Group Cites 13 Countries for Restricting Online Free Expression

By Eric Green
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A Paris-based global press freedom advocacy group has released a new list of countries that it calls "enemies" of the Internet for "systematically" violating online free expression.

China, Cuba, Iran and North Korea are among the 13 countries that have been listed on the press group's 2006 "roll of shame."

In detailing its denunciations, Reporters Without Borders said China made the list for being "unquestionably" the world's "most advanced country in Internet filtering." Chinese authorities, said the group, "carefully monitor technological progress to ensure that no new window of free expression opens up."

After initially targeting Web sites and "chat forums," the Chinese authorities are said to now concentrate on blogs and video exchange sites. China has nearly 17 million bloggers, "but very few of them dare to tackle sensitive issues, still less criticize" Chinese government policy, said Reporters Without Borders.

The group said 52 people in China are currently in prison for expressing themselves too freely online, and "self-censorship is obviously in full force." Originally, it was thought the Internet would revolutionize Chinese society and politics, but now, with China "enjoying increasing geopolitical influence," Reporters Without Borders expressed concern that

China's Internet model, based on censorship and surveillance, "may one day be imposed on the rest of the world."

Another press advocacy group, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, also has condemned China's repressive policy against Internet freedom. The latest example of this human rights abuse, said the group, is the two-year prison sentence given October 25 to Internet writer Li Jianping of China, more than six months after the Chinese government tried him on charges of "inciting subversion of state authority." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/>



Cubans surf the web at an Internet cafe in Havana, Cuba, Oct. 25, 2006. The Cuban government monitors Internet use. (AP Images)

display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=200610311710411xeneerg0.2044641).

Reporters Without Borders said Cuba made its enemies list because the Cuban government uses several "levers" to ensure that the Internet is not used in a "counter-revolutionary way." To surf the Internet or check their e-mail, Cu-

bans have to go to public access points such as Internet cafes, universities and "youth computer clubs" where their activity can be monitored, because private Internet connections in Cuba are "more or less banned."

Reporters Without Borders also said the Cuban regime prevents Internet access for dissidents and independent journalists, "for whom communicating with people abroad is an ordeal."

Regarding Iran, the press group said Internet filtering in that country has stepped up and the Iranian authorities boast of filtering 10 million "immoral" Web sites. Reporters Without Borders said the Iranian authorities also decided recently to ban broadband connections (telecommunication in which a wide band of frequencies is available to transmit information).

Meanwhile, North Korea ranks as the world's worst Internet "black hole," said Reporters Without Borders, with only a few government officials able to access the Internet, using connections from China.

The list of Internet enemies comes in the wake of a November 6 statement by U.S. State Department official David Gross that the Bush administration has contributed in the past three years over \$250 million directly to projects in developing countries aimed at expanding access to information and

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White House Fact Sheet on Malaria Summit

The White House
Office of the First Lady
November 13, 2006

The White House Summit On Malaria

Malaria – A Largely Preventable Disease – Kills 3,000 Children Every Day And Claims Almost A Million Lives A Year In Africa.

Defeating malaria is an urgent calling and an achievable goal. Adding to the urgency is the fact that malaria is largely preventable. While malaria once afflicted many Americans, today malaria is virtually unheard of in the United States. Over the decades, malaria was eliminated in the United States and elsewhere through science and medical advances. The challenge now is to make sure this progress benefits people still at risk of malaria in Africa.

The President and Mrs. Bush Will Host the White House Summit on Malaria on December 14, 2006, in Washington, D.C., To Discuss and Highlight Measures for Combating This Preventable Disease.

President Bush Announced The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) In June 2005. PMI is a five-year, \$1.2 billion program that challenges the private sector to join the U.S. Government in combating malaria in 15 of the hardest-hit countries. The initiative aims to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in these 15 focus countries in Africa.

Through partnerships working in the first three focus countries –

Tanzania, Angola and Uganda – aid from the American people has already reached about six million Africans.

In June 2006, Mrs. Laura Bush announced the United States would partner with four more focus countries – Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Senegal – to provide long-lasting mosquito nets, anti-malarial drugs, and help these countries conduct mosquito-spraying programs. The initiative also includes education and evaluation programs.

Purpose Of The Summit

Highlighting Measures To Control Malaria. The White House Summit on Malaria will bring together international experts, multilateral institutions, corporations and foundations, African civic leaders, NGOs and faith-based and service organizations to discuss and highlight measures for controlling malaria. The objectives of the Summit are:

- To jump-start an ambitious public-private effort to control malaria;

- To educate the American public about malaria, a largely preventable and treatable disease; and,

- To send a message globally about the need for governments, NGOs, corporations, and private citizens to join together to control malaria.

Partnering Together To Give African Children The Gift Of Growing Up. The Summit will highlight the many organizations at work in the fight against malaria, including Malaria No More, which is helping to

mobilize new private sector support.

Malaria No More: Malaria No More is a non-profit organization created in 2006 by leading non-governmental entities to give private and non-profit organizations and individuals the opportunity to support a comprehensive approach to control malaria, and to help coordinate those efforts with governments and the multilateral organizations at the forefront of the fight. Malaria No More is mobilizing corporations and foundations; churches, synagogues and mosques; schools and athletic teams; and communities and individuals.

Other Summit Partners Include The Office Of The Coordinator For The President's Malaria Initiative At The U.S. Agency For International Development And The Office Of Public Diplomacy And Public Affairs At The U.S. State Department.

Mobilizing Grassroots To Save Millions Of Lives In Africa. The Summit will engage the private sector in a powerful grassroots movement to raise awareness of malaria, and highlight ways that organizations and individuals can get involved in combating this preventable disease.

Themes Of The Summit

The Challenge Of Malaria In Africa. One child dies in Africa every 30 seconds from malaria. At least one million infants and children under five in sub-Saharan Africa die each year from the mosquito-borne disease.

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White House Fact Sheet on Malaria . . .

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ease. While this disease is one of the greatest threats to human and economic welfare on earth, malaria is both preventable and treatable if addressed properly and quickly.

The Power Of Public/Private Partnerships. The Summit will help educate the public about malaria and public and private efforts to control it, and jump-start an ambitious public-private effort, sending a message globally about the need for governments, NGOs, and corporations to come together to control malaria. Major multilateral in-

stitutions in the forefront of the effort to control malaria are also expected to attend, including UNICEF, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and others.

Growing The Grassroots. Under the leadership of Malaria No More, America's corporations and foundations, nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations, individuals and America's young people are being challenged to save lives and build a bridge between peoples. One American with just \$10 can save a life in Africa. A school, a

church, or a team can save a village. Together, Americans can help protect an entire continent.

More Information

For More Information On This Initiative, Please Visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/malaria>.

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Press Group Cites 13 Countries for Restricting Online . . .

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communications technology networks (ICTs) and promoting the free flow of information.

As an example of these projects, Gross said the administration's Digital Freedom Initiative has brought together the U.S. government, the private sector, nonprofits and universities to build technical capacity, empower people, and spur economic growth through greater use of ICTs. In 2007, the administration has pledged to work to increase broadband connectivity, connecting rural areas and universities to allow voice and data transmission across nations, said Gross, who is the department's coordinator for international communications and information policy

in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2006/Apr/05-501603.html>).

Speaking at the International Telecommunication Union Conference in Antalya, Turkey, Gross said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that "everyone has the right to information, to freedom of opinion and expression," with "the right to freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

"It is our responsibility to see that these words -- and this promise -- are brought into reality," Gross said.

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/rls/rm/2006/75588.htm>) of Gross' statement is available on the State Department Web site.

The full text (http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=19603) of Reporters Without Borders list of Internet enemies is available on the organization's Web site.

For more information, see Internet Freedom (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/internet_freedom.html).

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Fulbright Educational Exchange Program Marks 60th . . .

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for advanced research and university lecturing in the United States. A "Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program" allows U.S. and foreign teachers to exchange places for a semester or an academic year. Students are exposed to different points of view, and teachers return home with a more global perspective.

In J. William Fulbright's words, the program "aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

NOT JUST A U.S. PROGRAM

With the growth of Fulbright exchanges, responsibility for selecting and funding participants has expanded beyond the United States. The Department of State's

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs administers the overall program, in cooperation with a number of nonprofit organizations and 50 binational "Fulbright Commissions."

Each commission contains an equal number of U.S. and foreign nationals and is funded jointly by the United States and a host foreign government. It receives exchange requests from local institutions and proposes an annual country program, setting the numbers and categories of Fulbright grants for that nation. (In countries without a commission, the public affairs section of the U.S. Embassy develops and supervises the Fulbright Program.) In this way, programs are tailored to meet the needs of all participating nations.

For President Bill Clinton, speaking in 1996 on the program's 50th anniversary, fellow Arkansan Fulbright "gave the gift of understanding that the only way to last-

ing peace is for people to understand one another -- the simple act of giving and receiving the best that each of us has to offer. ... [T]he Fulbright Program has stood as a proud symbol of our nation's fundamental commitment to that ideal."

That commitment continues. In 1976, Bangladeshi Fulbright participant Mohammad Yunus founded the Grameen Bank to provide collateral-free microcredit to his nation's rural poor. In 2006, Yunus received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. "Fulbright provided me the bridge to cross. I saw how things can be done differently in a different society. ... I learned lessons which stood me in good stead when building up the Grameen Bank," he said.

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Iran Should Pursue Peaceful Nuclear Path, U.S. Envoy . . .

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Schulte said. "But Iran's leaders have shown no interest."

Schulte said that the "choice that would most benefit the Iranian people" would be for Iran's leaders to cooperate with the international community "and take credible steps to assure the world that their nuclear program is solely peaceful."

President Bush said November 13 that he is willing to have talks with

Iran on Iraq and other regional issues, but any such talks must be preceded by a verifiable suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment activities.

On October 26, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council began negotiations on a draft resolution that would impose sanctions on Iran's nuclear activities.

Schulte's remarks (http://www.usunvienna.rpo.at/_index.php?

`cmd=cmdFrontendSpeechesAndRelatedDocumentsDetail&speechid=223`) are posted on the Web site of the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna. See also Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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New Genetic Data Helps Pinpoint Human Disease Susceptibility

By Cheryl Pellerin
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Researchers from the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health, have resequenced the DNA of 15 mouse strains to help scientists worldwide better understand complex human genetic traits.

The new data, from mouse strains that most commonly are used in biomedical research, are available publicly and will be a valuable resource in determining how environmental agents influence disease development and why some people are more susceptible than others to certain diseases.

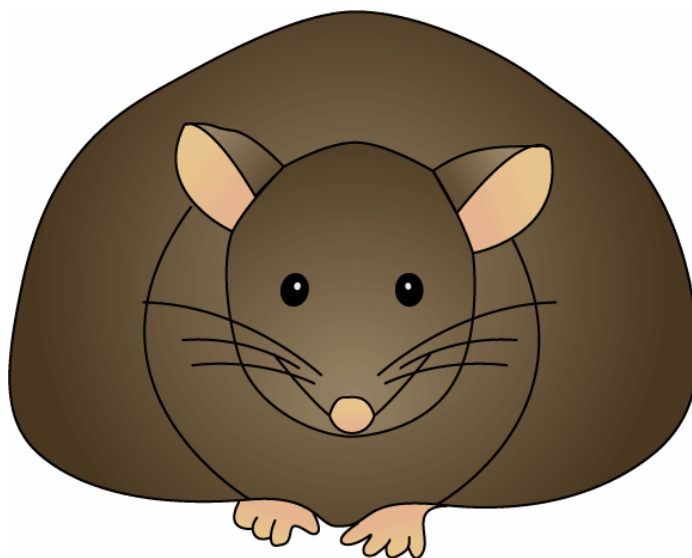
The "Resequencing and SNP Discovery Project" involves single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs – called "snips." These are single genetic changes, or variations, that can occur in a DNA sequence.

Working with NIEHS, researchers from Perlegen Sciences of California identified more than 8.3 million SNPs among the genomes of the 15 mouse strains.

Because mice and people share many of the same basic biological and behavioral processes, including gene functions, these data will help researchers understand hu-

man genetic susceptibility to nearly 200 diseases.

These include Parkinson's disease, cancer, diabetes, heart and lung diseases, reproductive diseases, and asthma and other childhood



diseases, all of which are affected by exposure to environmental substances.

"Making this wealth of data freely available to the research community is a significant milestone," said NIEHS Director David Schwartz, at an October 25 NIH press briefing.

"Now that we know the DNA variations for these mouse strains," Schwartz added, "we can compare the genetic makeup of one strain that acquires a certain disease to another strain that does not get the same disease."

With this knowledge, he said, researchers can gain insight into the same processes that might cause one person to get a disease while another person in the same environment stays disease-free.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE

The sequencing of 15 strains of mice builds on a decade of scientific accomplishments. In 2001, the draft version of the mouse genome sequence was completed. In 2003, the human genome sequence was completed.

In 2005, the HapMap Project – a catalog of common genetic vari-

ants called haplotypes that occur in humans – reported the sequence variation between individuals, creating opportunities to characterize an individual's DNA and identify how genes relate to complex human diseases.

The mouse SNP project began in 2004 through a contract between the NIEHS National Toxicology Program and Perlegen Sciences.

The 15 mouse strains were chosen carefully because of their routine use as research models and their genetic diversity. The project used

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New Genetic Data Helps Pinpoint Human Disease . . .

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the same technology that was used to discover common DNA variation in the human genome.

The milestone marked by this work is important for three reasons, Schwartz explained:

It provides the tools to discover genes in mice that play critical roles in the response to environmental toxins and disease development.

Because 99 percent of genes are similar between mice and humans, the environmentally responsive genes and disease-related genes in mice are likely to be important in human disease.

The knowledge can be used to identify those at risk, prevent disease development and identify promising new forms of treatment.

"The real power of this resource," said David Threadgill, associate professor in the Department of Genetics at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, "comes in being able to look across the 15 strains and query how each strain differentially responds to a particular disease."

Then, he added, by statistically examining "the variation across the strains, you can quickly narrow down which groups of SNPs are driving the differential disease susceptibility that would give you

strong candidates" to search for in human populations.

RESPONSE TO DISEASES

Asthma is one example of an environmentally based response to airborne allergens that is strongly influenced by a person's inherited DNA.

"One or two strains of mice are particularly susceptible to airborne allergens leading to asthma, and conversely several strains are very nonresponsive to the same exposures," said Dr. David Christiani, professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and professor of Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health.

Now, he added, as a result of the SNP project, "rather than just looking at them as strain differences, the actual genes responsible for those different responses, different risks, can be specifically determined and studied in relation to exposures."

Another common environmental exposure is ozone – a big problem in urban areas around the world – that can cause respiratory or pulmonary inflammation, especially in people who are particularly sensitive to ozone gas.

With data from mouse strains that are sensitive and resistant to ozone gas exposure, Christiani said, "the genetic underpinnings

and mechanisms responsible for that can be worked out."

Species differences among the mice also can be useful in human medicine.

"It turns out that one group of mice that are resistant to ozone-induced pulmonary injury are actually very susceptible to carcinogens, so cancer is increased in that group," Christiani explained.

"Now what [seemed like] interesting strain differences," he added, "can be worked out in sufficient detail that a true examination of gene-environment interaction can take place."

The mouse data (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/>) are available through NIH on the National Center for Biotechnology Information Web site.

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Bush Awards National Arts and Humanities . . .

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Among its projects, the NEH has provided more than \$2 million to help preserve the collections of libraries, museums and other cultural institutions that sustained damage in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The full text (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/11/20061108.html>) of the White House press release, which includes a list of all the honorees, is available on the White House Web site.

More information about the National Endowment for the Arts (<http://www.nea.gov/>) and the winners of the National Medal of Arts (<http://www.nea.gov/news/news06/>

Medals.html) is available on their Web sites. See the Web site of the National Endowment for the Humanities (<http://www.neh.gov/>) for additional information on the National Humanities Medal (<http://www.neh.gov/news/archive/20061108.html>) winners.

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Presidents, Celebrities Inaugurate Martin Luther King . . .

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time he was taken 300 miles away in chains to a penitentiary).

President Bush praised King because he "held the nation to its own standards." He said King's dream – a dream in which the nation rises up and lives out the true meaning of its creed, that all men are created equal – was not shattered by an assassin's bullet, but "continues to inspire millions across the world."

Nelson Mandela, South Africa's anti-apartheid hero, sent a letter saying that King's movement "transcends a single nation" and praising King's legacy of standing up to tyranny "without looking for selfish gain."

This memorial has been on the drawing board since President Clinton, who also was at the groundbreaking, signed legislation approving it in 1996. The groundbreaking was "a chance to show supporters our appreciation and to look ahead to the future of the memorial," said Harry E. Johnson Sr., the president of the foundation dedicated to creating the memorial. The event drew international press attention and new donations. In the days leading up to the groundbreaking, \$6 million was raised from corporations and individuals, bringing the total to more than two-thirds of the \$100 million needed to complete the memorial.

The largest donors have been automaker General Motors Corporation, Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation, the National Basketball

Association and the Walt Disney Company Foundation. On the evening of November 13, donors will be feted at a dinner at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at which Gladys Knight, Brian McKnight and Michael Bolton will sing.

For more information, see Martin Luther King Jr. (http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/civil_rights/martin_luther_king_jr.html)

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